

ENTRY INTO THE US NATIONAL PHASE

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ENTRY INTO THE US NATIONAL PHASE

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International Application Number: PCT/GR 00/00018

International Filing Date: 21 April 2000

Priority Date Claimed: 22 April 1999

Title: FLEXIBLE DRINKING STRAW

Appn Number:

Appn Filed:

Examiner/GAU:

Date: October 09, 2001

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE,

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, District of Columbia 20231

GENERAL

- I enclose the first page data of the PCT application.
- The Certified Priority Documents must be transmitted by the International Bureau.

PAYMENT OF THE NATIONAL FEE

I enclose a copy of the receipt of wire transfer through CITIBANK, for \$ 500 - nr. 3012630276 – September 20, 2001. I informed about it the Financial Accounting Division (Mr. Thomas Hellmer – Director) by fax and e-mail dated September 21, 2001.

From October 01, 2001 the Basic National Fee has been increased by \$ 15 (from \$ 430 to \$ 445). I enclose this sum (\$ 15) **in cash** to secure that I have paid the proper amount.

DOCUMENTS FOR THE US GRANT PROCEDURE

The basis for the procedure is the documents on which the International Preliminary Examination Report is based as they are amended now.

COMMENTS ON THE IPER

I. SECTION III.1 – Independent Claim 1.

I amend Independent Claim 1 according to Examiner's instructions.

- The "... are not deformed ..." is replaced by "... have not been deformed ...".
- The "... in order to achieve ..." is replaced by "... in order that we achieve ...".

II. SECTION III.2 – Document US-A-4,036,392 (Marvin Martin).

The straw in the above document consists of 2 corrugated zones. Each zone has 11 corrugations. The corrugations are not re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds). Please, see Document GB-A-1,219,595.

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The basis for the amendments is the documents on which the International Preliminary Examination Report is based.

Changes in the Claims

All Claims are cancelled and replaced by new claims 3,4.

Remarks

In Independent Claim 1 that has been rewritten as Independent Claim 3:

- The "... are not deformed ..." is replaced by "... have not been deformed ...".
- The "... in order to achieve ..." is replaced by "... in order that we achieve ...".

I submit a copy with the new Claims (1 sheet).

REQUEST FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ASSISTANCE

As the way of writing an application by the USPTO is quite different than by the EPO I respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2173.02 and § 707.07(j) in order that I can place this application in allowable condition.

Very respectfully,



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CLAIMS

3. The flexible drinking straws with one (or more) corrugated zone (flexible zone) consisting of re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds), which are attached to the packaging of fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. and are
5 permanently bent until their use in order to take up less space,

characterized in that

the corrugated zone (flexible zone) of the straw consists of expanded (unfolded) re-entrant overlapping folds (annular
10 bellows folds) that have not been deformed by force and contracted (folded) re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) interspersed among the expanded ones so that not many consecutive expanded folds 2, 5 exist without interference of one 3 or more 4 contracted ones, in order
15 that we achieve the best possible straightening up of the straw.

4. The flexible drinking straws, which are attached to the packaging of fruit juices, milks, coffees etc. and are
20 permanently bent until their use in order to take up less space, **according to claim 3**

wherein the first re-entrant overlapping folds (annular bellows folds) 1 of the corrugated zone (flexible zone) of the straw are contracted (folded), so that after straightening, the straw
25 may bend to all directions.